

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 792

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Taijuan "Tootie" Thomas.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those young persons who, through their personal efforts, have distinguished themselves as role models who we would all do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, at a time when the youth of our country face tremendous challenges, it is inspiring to see Tennessee's young people evidence the courage and conviction to overcome societal obstacles to become young adults with character, integrity, and the determination to succeed, while also establishing a benchmark of excellence for their peers; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Taijuan "Tootie" Thomas, a voice of intensity, commitment and hope at Westview High School; and

WHEREAS, after much pleading and begging from his mother, Katie, Tootie slowly began to rise above the negative peer pressure that had enveloped him since his relocation to Tennessee from Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, through long hours of prayer and Bible study, steady composure in the face of adversity, and an untiring commitment of his time and patience, Taijuan Thomas has turned

his life around; he is no longer a troubled teen, but is instead a mature young adult with a bright future ahead of him; and

WHEREAS, Tootie credits the positive change in his life to prayer with God; he carries a Bible with him everywhere he goes and adheres to Jesus Christ's words, "pray without ceasing" by starting the day with a prayer, praying throughout the day, and ending the day with a prayer; and

WHEREAS, a natural athlete, Tootie manages to walk the straight and narrow path by participating in sports; he is the leading scorer and rebounder for the Westview High School basketball team and he gained more than 1,000 yards as a first-year running back on the school's football team; and

WHEREAS, his teachers, friends, family, and coaches marvel at the change in Tootie and hope that others will follow his meritorious example of positive thought and action; and

WHEREAS, Taijuan Thomas epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Tootie hopes to someday take his exceptional athletic talent to the collegiate level and then the professional ranks, but he also plans to pursue a college degree in criminal justice, so that he can help young children and teenagers to become responsible adults; and

WHEREAS, Taijuan "Tootie" Thomas is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish him; he is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the improvement of himself and his community and fellow citizens and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and applaud Taijuan "Tootie" Thomas for the positive

example he sets for his peers and for living the examined life with courage, commitment and conviction. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.